



City of Cincinnati

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Date: April 17, 2008

Duke Energy volunteers remove graffiti and improve quality of life for residents of the Deupree House Retirement Homes

Duke Energy is providing the volunteer manpower for the next two Fridays to remove graffiti that lines the walls of Duck Creek.

Cincinnati, OH – Duke Energy employees will be removing graffiti on the walls lining the Duck Creek near the Rosslyn Ramp. The project is being performed as part of the company's annual Global Service Event (GSE), a companywide volunteerism effort that runs from April 1 – June 1 this year.

Over thirty volunteers are dedicating their time Friday April 17, 2008 to remove the graffiti that residents of the Dupree House have been viewing through the windows of their homes. On Friday April 25, 2008, the volunteers will paint artistic lines on the walls in hopes of deterring the graffiti vandals from defacing the area again.

Throughout GSE, hundreds of volunteer projects will take place within the five-state Duke Energy service territory, which includes the Carolinas, Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky.

During the company's 2007 GSE, employees and retirees participated in more than 500 volunteer projects, assisted more than 370 nonprofit organizations in 153 communities and provided \$144,000 in volunteer grants provided by the Duke Energy Foundation.

The City of Cincinnati maintains an active graffiti removal program year round. In 2007, the City cleaned more than 4,200 identified graffiti locations. While maintaining an internal goal of self identifying at least 75% of the graffiti instances, the City continues to rely heavily on citizens to report graffiti when it is spotted.

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A few helpful hints to keep in mind concerning graffiti:

1. **Graffiti removal** is defined as the set of techniques used by the City of Cincinnati to remove paintings, writing and other illegal marking defacing public or private property.
2. An **Abatement Notice** is a letter/form that is sent via US mail informing the citizen that Graffiti has been found on a property listed under their name. This notice can also be left at the property. An abatement Notice also lets you know that you have seven days to remove the graffiti. If the graffiti is not removed, the city will then come on the property and remove the graffiti. It is to the property owner's advantage to do the removal whenever possible.
3. There are no citations or fines associated with an abatement notice.
4. After receiving a complaint/request an Abatement notice is sent out to the property owner. Nothing is done until after the seven day waiting period of the notice. Graffiti locations are grouped by neighborhood and police district. Each police district is serviced at least one week per month. Depending on when your request is received, it could be as little as one day or as long as fifteen days. ** Please keep in mind that this is after the seven day waiting period of the Abatement Notice.
5. The City does not remove graffiti from inside structures, only exteriors.
6. If graffiti is spotted, it should be reported immediately by calling the City of Cincinnati's Customer Service Center at 513-591-6000.

Duke Energy, one of the largest electric power companies in the United States, supplies and delivers energy to approximately 4 million U.S. customers. The company has approximately 36,000 megawatts of electric generating capacity in the Midwest and the Carolinas, and natural gas distribution services in Ohio and Kentucky. In addition, Duke Energy has more than 4,000 megawatts of electric generation in Latin America, and is a joint-venture partner in a U.S. real estate company. Headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., Duke Energy is a Fortune 500 company traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol DUK. More information about the company is available on the Internet at: www.duke-energy.com.